

CLAIMS

1. An in-line dispenser for adding a dispersible solid to a flow of liquid said dispenser comprising:
 - 5 a liquid conduit having a tubular wall extending between an inlet and an outlet, and a container for the dispersible solid having at least one wall comprising at least a part of the tubular wall, wherein the at least a part of the tubular wall is permeable to liquid but
 - 10 is substantially impermeable to the dispersible solid, whereby liquid flowing through the liquid conduit from the inlet to the outlet may flow from within the liquid conduit into the container to come into contact with the dispersible solid to dissolve or otherwise disperse the dispersible solid in the liquid in a form which allows the liquid containing the dispersed solid to re-enter the liquid
 - 15 conduit.
2. A dispenser according to claim 1 wherein the tubular wall is rendered permeable by virtue of including one or more holes or slots therethrough.
- 20 3. A dispenser according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said holes or slots are of sufficiently narrow diameter or width to prevent the particulate material passing therethrough.
4. A dispenser according to claim 3 wherein the said diameter or width is
- 25 in the range 0.2 to 3mm.
5. A dispenser according to claim 3 wherein the said diameter or width is in the range 0.02 to 0.2 mm.
- 30 6. A dispenser according to claim 3 wherein the said diameter or width is in the range 3 to 10mm.

7. A dispenser according to any one of claims 2 to 6 wherein the holes take the form of circular openings.
8. A dispenser according to claim 1 wherein the tubular wall of the liquid conduit is formed of a material which is inherently permeable to water or other liquid.
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9. A dispenser according to claim 8 wherein said tubular wall includes a fibrous material.
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10. A dispenser according to claim 9 wherein said fibrous material includes fibres that are woven.
11. A dispenser according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein said liquid conduit is mounted to extend between inlet and outlet ports of a main body, so that a space between the main body and the liquid conduit defines the container for holding the dispersible solid.
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11. A dispenser according to claim 11 wherein said main body includes a cylindrical outer barrel and said conduit is mounted co-axially with said outer barrel.
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12. A dispenser according to claim 11 wherein an end of the co-axially mounted outer barrel and liquid conduit are joined in such a manner as to close off the container at that end.
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13. A dispenser according to any one of claims 1 to 12 including attachment means for releasably connecting the dispenser to a water supply means and a distribution means so that water can flow from the water supply means to the distribution means through the liquid conduit.
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14. A dispenser according to claim 13 wherein at least one said attachment means includes a screw thread matingly connectable to said water supply means or distribution means.
- 5 15. A dispenser according to claim 13 or 14 wherein a said attachment means is adapted to be snap-fittingly securable to said water supply means or distribution means.
- 10 16. A dispenser according to any one of claims 1 to 15 further including filter means adapted to filter out particulates in fluid travelling through the liquid conduit.
17. A dispenser according to claim 16 wherein the filter means is positioned downstream of the container.
- 15 18. A dispenser according to any one of claims 1 to 17 including a check valve located to be upstream of the liquid conduit in use.
- 20 19. A method for adding to a stream of water used for watering an area of earth a substance that is available in granular or powder form, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a dispenser according to any one of claims 1 to 18;
 - placing a quantity of the substance in the container of the dispenser;
 - connecting the dispenser to a water supply means and a water distribution means; and
 - 25 causing a flow of water from the water supply means to the water distribution means through the dispenser.
- 30 20. A method for adding to a stream of water used for watering an area of earth a substance that is able to be formed into or held in a solid body dissolvable by water, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a dispenser according to any one of claims 1 to 18;

placing at least one solid body of or containing the substance in the container of the dispenser;

connecting the dispenser to a water supply means and a water distribution means; and

5 causing a flow of water from the water supply means to the water distribution means through the dispenser,

so that the body is dissolved by the action of water flowing into the container and the substance enters the water.

10 21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the solid body has a bore which when the solid body is placed into the compartment surrounds the liquid conduit of the dispenser.